



Utah State Courts



JUVENILE COURT REPORT CARD TO THE COMMUNITY 2008

When citizens are asked what they would like the juvenile justice system to accomplish, the message is clear. Citizens expect the justice system to further community safety, hold offenders accountable, and protect the constitutional rights of juveniles, while at the same time providing justice to victims. They also expect that juvenile offenders will stop criminal behavior and become responsible and productive citizens.

Taxpayers invest significant resources in the justice system and should expect a sound return on this investment. The purpose of this report card is to provide taxpayers with an update on how Utah's juvenile justice system is performing. The Juvenile Court has established benchmarks, which are listed in this report, to inform the community on its progress in furthering safety, restoring justice for victims, and reducing the risk of re-offending.

The Juvenile Court can and should be held accountable for its performance on these measures. The highest level of public safety, however, is achieved not only through the sound use of tax dollars, but through public involvement. Working together we can build a safer and more just community.

Ray Wahl
Juvenile Court Administrator



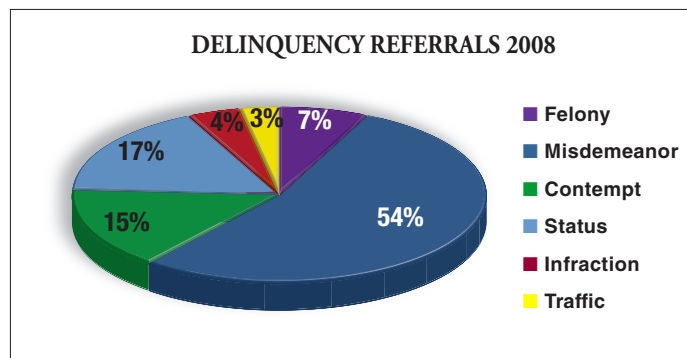
DELINQUENCY REFERRALS

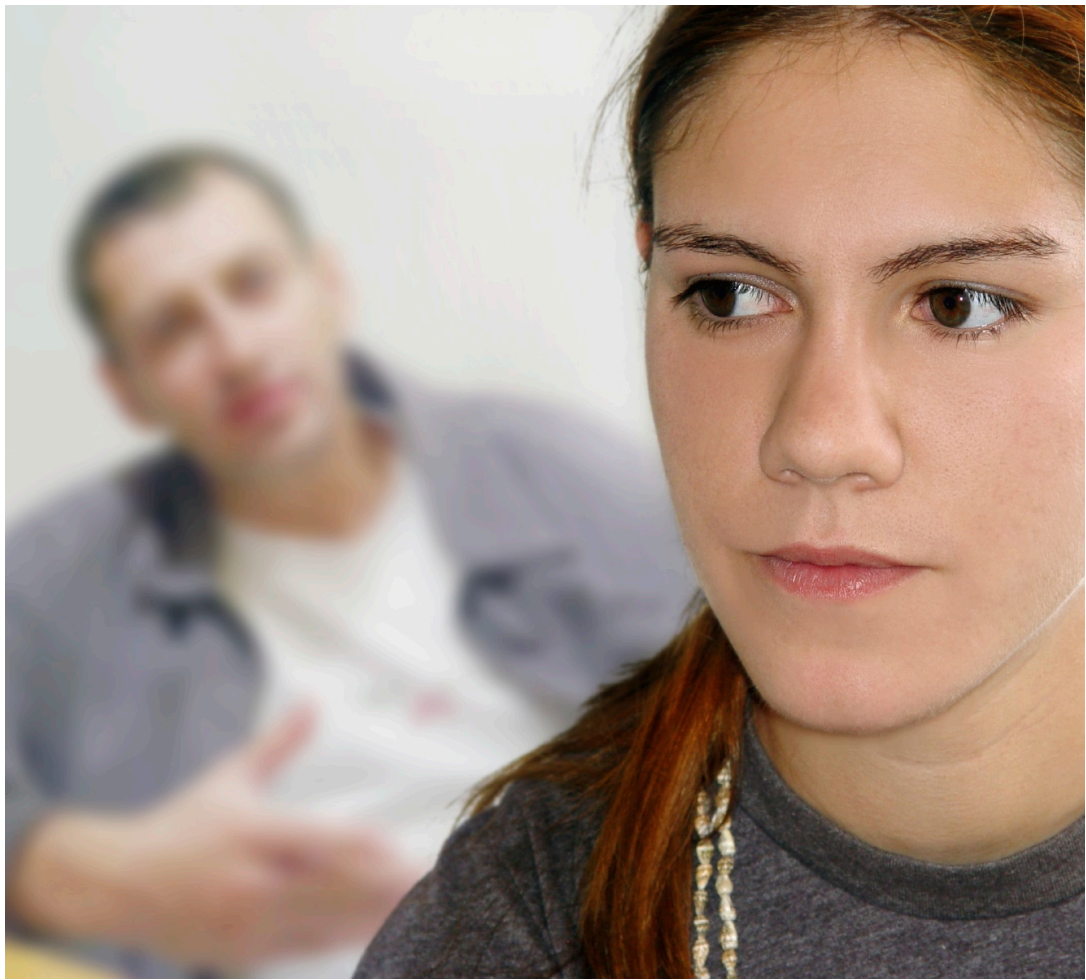


Referrals to Juvenile Court are an important measure of juvenile criminal behavior. Youth may be referred to the Juvenile Court for a variety of offenses. Felony-level offenses, such as burglary, are the most severe. These offenses are defined by law as those punishable with more than one year in prison, if committed by an adult. Misdemeanor-level offenses, such as theft or shoplifting, are less severe offenses that would be punishable with up to one year in jail and/or a fine, if committed by an adult. Status offenses, such as truancy or alcohol possession, are offenses that would not be a violation of the law but for the age of the offender. Infractions, such as disorderly conduct or criminal trespass, are lesser

offenses that are not punishable by imprisonment. For more information on the classification of offenses, please see the Utah Code.

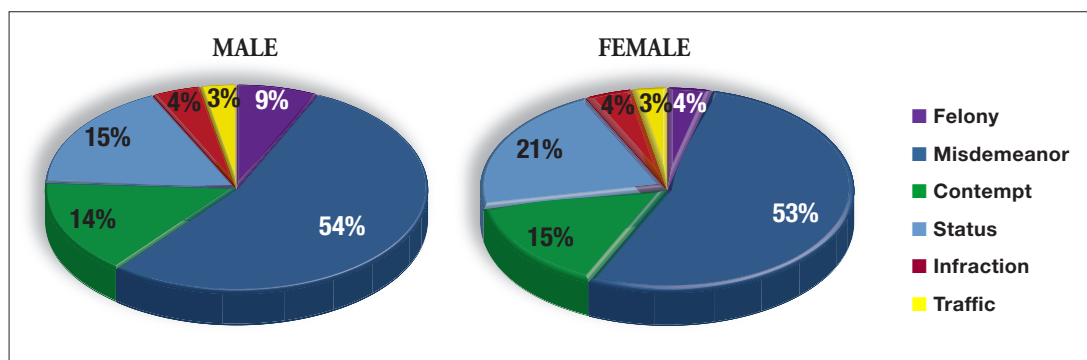
Most delinquency cases referred to the Juvenile Court in 2007 were misdemeanor or status offenses. Misdemeanor offenses accounted for 54 percent of delinquency referrals, and status offenses accounted for 17 percent of delinquency referrals. Felonies, the most severe type of offense, accounted for only 7 percent of delinquency referrals.





Males and females were referred to the Juvenile Court at different rates. Seventy percent of delinquency referrals were for males and 30 percent were for females in 2007. This was similar to national delinquency referral rates for males and females.

Males were more likely than females to be referred for felony-level offenses, and females were more likely than males to be referred for status offenses.



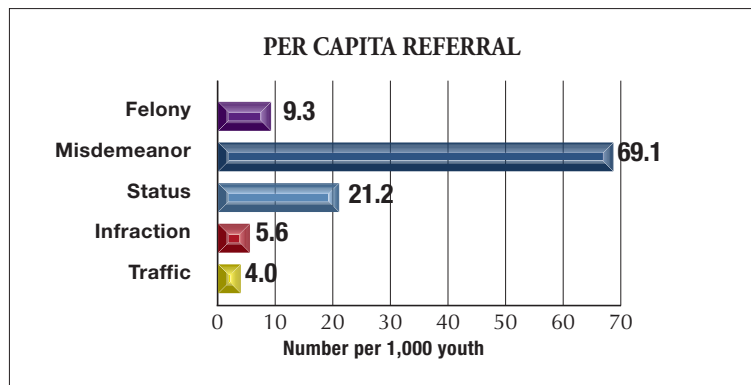
Note: Due to rounding, totals may not equal 100 percent.

JUVENILE CRIME



Another key indicator of juvenile delinquency is the per capita rate of delinquency referrals. This measure examines the number of delinquency referrals for youth 10 to 17 years of age per 1,000 of the Utah population 10 to 17 years of age.

The per capita rate of felony referrals was much lower than the per capita rate of misdemeanor referrals in 2007. There were 69.1 referrals per 1,000 youth for misdemeanor-level offenses and 9.3 referrals per 1,000 youth for felony-level offenses. The per capita rate of referrals for status offenses was higher than the per capita rate of referrals for traffic, infraction, or felony offenses, and lower than the per capita rate for misdemeanor offenses.



LAW ABIDING BEHAVIOR

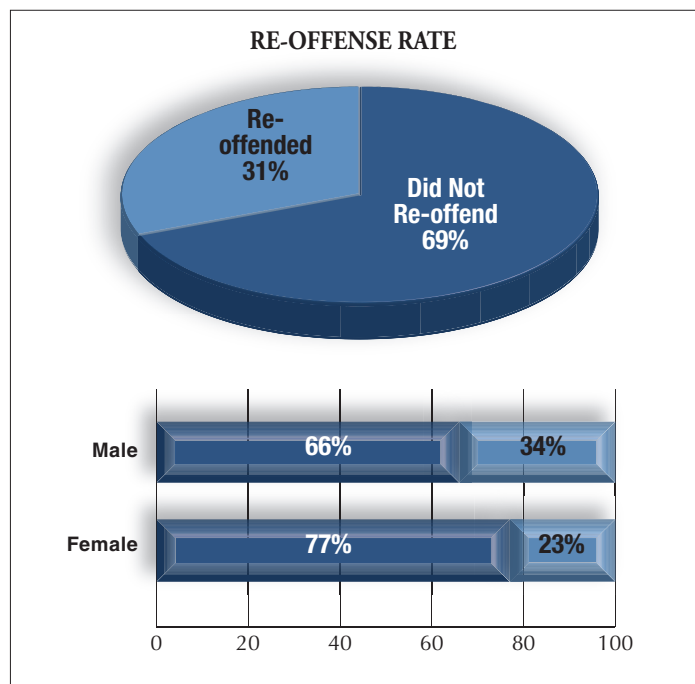


Whether or not youth re-offend after being involved with the Juvenile Court is a valuable gauge of the success of the Juvenile Court's programs.

Statistics show that 69 percent of youth who were involved with the Juvenile Court did not re-offend within one year of the original offense.

Females re-offended at a lower rate than males, with 23 percent of females re-offending compared to 34 percent of males re-offending within one year.

Felony-level and misdemeanor-level findings or admissions of guilt in 2005 were used as the baseline for this measure. Re-offense was defined as a new felony-level or misdemeanor-level finding or admission of guilt within one year of the original adjudication date. An additional one year follow-up period was required for the processing and adjudication of all new offenses occurring within the re-offense time period. Technical violations were not included in this measure.



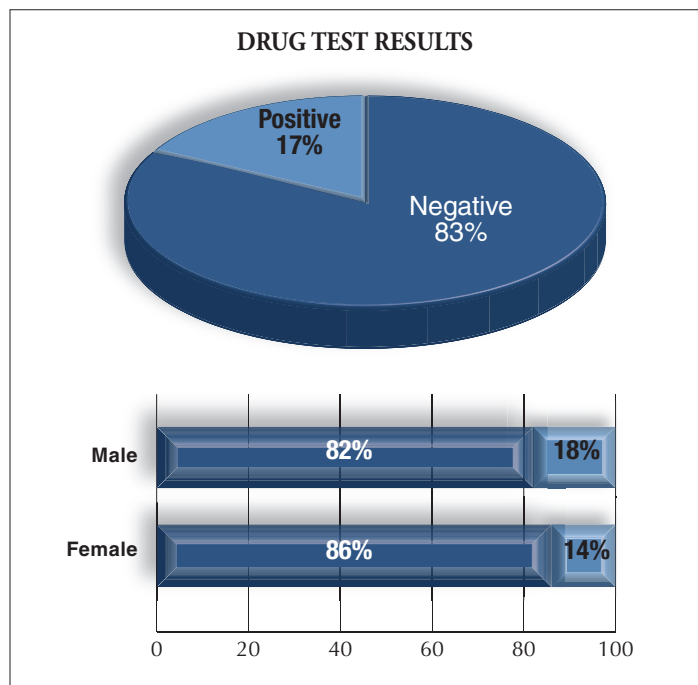
DRUG TESTING



A juvenile offender's resistance to drug use helps the court determine the progress these youth are making toward law abiding behavior.

When testing for illegal drug use by juvenile offenders, results showed that 83 percent of drug tests given to youth involved with the Juvenile Court were negative.

A higher percentage of females than males tested negative for illegal drug use. Eighty-six percent of tests given to females were negative, and 82 percent of tests given to males were negative for illegal drug use.

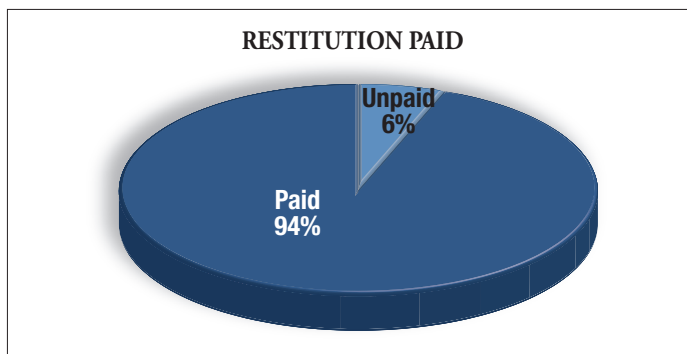


RESTITUTION PAID



For offenders, paying restitution to crime victims is an essential part of taking responsibility for their actions.

Ninety-four percent of the restitution due in 2007 was paid, which represents more than \$615,000 paid to compensate victims that were harmed as a result of juvenile criminal behavior.

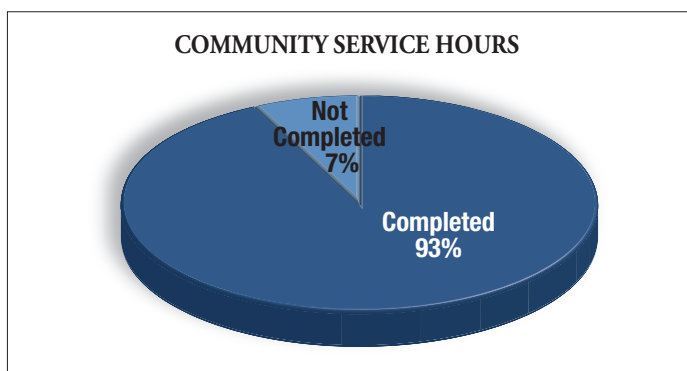


COMMUNITY SERVICE



Ordering the performance of community service is a way to hold delinquent youth accountable for the harm they have caused in the community.

Ninety-three percent of the community service ordered in 2007 was completed. Delinquent youth performed nearly 395,000 hours of community service in 2007, which translates to more than \$1.5 million in taxpayer benefits.





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